

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
ACDA-07 SSM-03 IO-13 OES-06 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 /103 W
-----041939Z 053059 /45

R 041432Z PAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5567
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: A LIBERAL PARTY ASSESSMENT OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

1. CHARGE' AND POLITICAL OFFICER MET WITH ARYE DULZIN, JEWISH AGENCY TREASURER AND LIBERAL PARTY LUMINARY, ON MARCH 31 IN HIS OFFICE IN TEL AVIV. DULZIN CONTINUES TO BE ACTIVE IN LIKUD POLITICS (THE RIGHT-WING BLOC THAT INCLUDES HIS PARTY) AND IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE LIBERAL PARTY, RIGHT BEHIND SIMHA EHRLICH.

2. DULZIN SEES THE CONTEST BETWEEN THE LIKUD AND THE ALIGNMENT AS VERY CLOSE. HE THOUGHT THE RANGE OF EACH PARTY WOULD BE 37 TO 42 SEATS. THE DMC WILL WIN 10-12 SEATS--"13 AT MOST." HE KNOWS THE POLLS ARE MORE GENEROUS TO THE DMC THAN THAT, BUT ITS STANDING WILL DECLINE AS THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN RUNS ITS COURSE.

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3. THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WILL BE A COALITION FORMED BY THE ALIGNMENT OR THE LIKUD WITH THE DMC AND NRP. IT IS LIKELY TO HAVE A THIN MAJORITY AND BE UNSTABLE. HE FORESEES THAT THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION WILL BE PROTRACTED. DULZIN THOUGHT

THAT THERE WAS AN OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT THE ALIGNMENT WILL JOIN THE LIKUD IN A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT THIS WOULD BREAK UP THE ALIGNMENT. SUCH A COALITION WOULD FOLLOW A LABOR PARTY DECISION TO PAY A HIGH PRICE TO KEEP THE DMC OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS BECAUSE THE DMC IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE LABOR PARTY, DRAWING VIRTUALLY ALL ITS SUPPORT FROM LABOR PARTY RANKS AND THE SMALL CENTER PARTIES (JUST AS SHARON'S SHLOMZION HAS ATTRACTED FORMER LIKUDNIKS). DULZIN SEES THE LABOR PARTY REASONING THAT SINCE MOST OF THE DMC'S LEADERS ARE NOT PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS, IF THEY ARE KEPT OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT THEY WILL SOON BECOME BORED WITH SERVING MERELY AS MK'S AND THE DMC WILL BREAK UP. ACCORDING TO DULZIN, FORMING A COALITION WITHOUT THE DMC WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT UNLESS BOTH OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES PARTICIPATED.

4. DULZIN DID NOT SEEM ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF SHARON RETURNING TO THE LIKUD. HE REACTED SIMILARLY TOWARD SPECULATION THAT DAYAN MIGHT JOIN THE LIKUD, SAYING "THIS WOULD CAUSE US PROBLEMS." HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH A SWITCH WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. (PROPHETIC WORDS. ON APRIL 3 DAYAN ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL RUN FOR THE KNESSET AS A LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE. SEE SEPTTEL) DULZIN THEN SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT DAYAN AS A LEGEND IN HIS LIFETIME, WHOSE AURA EVAPORATED FOLLOWING THE YOM KIPPUR WAR. DULZIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THAT DAYAN COULD HAVE MAINTAINED HIS INFLUENCE AND BY NOW WOULD HAVE "CONTROLLED" ISRAEL IF AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION OF THE ARGANAT COMMISSION'S FINDINGS HE WOULD HAVE STEPPED FORWARD AND, AS THE DEFENSE MINISTER, ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAILURES.

5. DULZIN DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS PARTY WOULD SPLIT FROM THE LIKUD EXCEPT OVER A SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE. THIS WAS NOT, HOWEVER, A REMOTE POSSIBILITY. HE RECALLED THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY HAD DIFFERED WITH HERUT, WHEN THE TWO WERE PARTNERS IN GAHAL, OVER THE 1970 U.S. CEASEFIRE INITIATIVE. THE LIBERALS FAVORED ACCEPTING THE U.S. PROPOSAL, BUT LOST BY THREE VOTES IN THE VOTE WITHIN GAHAL AND THE BLOC WALKED OUT OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. DULZIN SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE A SIMILAR DIFFERENCE WOULD PROMPT THE LIBERALS TO LEAVE THE

LIKUD.

6. DULZIN BELIEVES THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR RABIN TO HAVE GONE TO WASHINGTON. HE SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION. NOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST IF ARAB LEADERS HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER BEFORE THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER. ACCORDING TO DULZIN, THE CENTRAL QUESTION IN THE ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE IS WHAT THE ARABS WILL GIVE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. ALMOST ALL ISRAELIS ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF AT LEAST SOME WITHDRAWAL, BUT THE PROBLEM IS TO NAIL DOWN THE ARAB QUID PRO QUO.

7. DULZIN, WHO OPPOSED THE SECOND INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT--PARTICULARLY THE YIELDING OF THE SINAI OIL FIELDS--HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN ANOTHER INTERIM AGREEMENT OR IN AN AGREEMENT ENDING BELLIGERENCY. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA, HE SAW NOTHING TO BE GAINED IN AN AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN SHORT OF A FINAL SETTLEMENT. HE DISMISSED AN END-OF-BELLIGERENCY AGREEMENT AS HAVING LITTLE MEANING. HE SAID THERE WERE THREE STAGES IN TERMINATING A WAR: CEASEFIRE; ARMISTICE; PEACE TREATY. "WE SIGNED ARMISTICE AGREEMENTS WITH ALL OUR NEIGHBORS IN 1949; WHAT IS DIFFERENT OR NEW IN AN END-OF-BELLIGERENCY AGREEMENT?"

8. COMMENT: DULZIN IS AN ATTRACTIVE POLITICIAN AND IS POPULAR AS THE JEWISH AGENCY'S TREASURER, THE NUMBER TWO POST IN THAT ORGANIZATION. HE REPORTEDLY ENJOYS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA LEADERS. ALTHOUGH HE ESCHEWS RUNNING FOR THE KNESSET (HE HAS NEVER BEEN AN MK), HE IS BELIEVED TO COVET A CABINET POST--FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE HIS FIRST CHOICE--AND IF THE LIKUD (OR THE LIBERALS) JOINS THE NEXT COALITION, HE WILL PROBABLY BE IN THE CABINET.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PARTY LEADERS, PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV02356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770117-0007
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704101/aaaafshj.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 91f2b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2664399
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970829
Subject: A LIBERAL PARTY ASSESSMENT OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PINT, IS, PINT, (DULZIN, ARYE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91f2b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009